



ANTITANK MINES

Antitank mines are devices which are particularly effective against armoured vehicles. They are bigger and more powerful (more than 5 kg) than are antipersonnel mines. To those who lay them, they hold out the possibility of using a device costing a few dozen ECU's to destroy a tank worth a million: mines are said to account for 70% of tank losses during the Vietnam War. Antitank mines may be piled up so as to increase their destructive power. During the Gulf War, tanks were found which had been over-turned after being struck by such a pile of mines.

- The simplest antitank mines are comparable to large blast-effect antipersonnel mines. Like the latter, they too are fitted with pressure activators, but these are differently set. They will not normally be triggered by a foot-soldier, but can be re-set so as to react to a pressure of some kilograms. Antitank mines fitted with pressure activators make up 60% of the models known.

They usually strike vehicles along their trajectory (caterpillar-track breakage) and act by blast-effect (in the case of between 70% and 80% of known models).